



# News Release

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## **Department of Health Tumwater campus snuffs out tobacco**

**OLYMPIA** — The Washington State Department of Health is now the first cabinet-level agency in the state to have an entirely tobacco-free main campus. The new policy takes effect today, February 16. [Signs are posted](http://www.doh.wa.gov/NewsRoom/TobaccoFree.htm) (www.doh.wa.gov/NewsRoom/TobaccoFree.htm) on the agency's Tumwater campus to alert employees and visitors that tobacco use is no longer allowed.

The new policy includes all areas of the complex. It applies to the four office buildings, parking garage, vehicles, common areas, and on-campus sidewalks. A similar policy is in place at the agency's Public Health Laboratories in Shoreline.

"It's important to practice what we preach. Tobacco kills, and as a public health agency we must do our part to stop it," said Secretary of Health Mary Selecky. "Going tobacco-free will help protect the health of our employees and everyone who comes here to visit or do business."

The department informed the public and employees of the pending change last November on the eve of the *Great American Smokeout*. Since the announcement the agency has hosted tobacco cessation classes for employees and provided information on the many different cessation services available.

Tobacco use causes thousands of deaths in our state every year, and there's no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Department of Health employees and all Washington residents can get free help quitting tobacco by calling the state Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-877-2NO-FUME in Spanish). Additional quitting information and resources are available on the [Quit Line Web site](http://www.quitline.com) (www.quitline.com), and [BecomeAnEx](http://www.BecomeAnEx.org) (www.BecomeAnEx.org).

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.